

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-23 were pending in this application. Claims 24 and 25 have been added and claims 1 and 23 have been amended hereby. Accordingly, claims 1-25 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found, for example, in Figures 4-6 of the present application. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 8-15 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Bennett et al. (US 2002/0112014) ("Bennett"), claims 5, 16 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett in view of Tuomi (US 2004/0093418) ("Tuomi"), and claims 6, 7, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett in view of Allison et al. (US 2003/0083078) ("Allison"). To the extent these grounds of rejection might still be applied to the claims presently pending in this application, they are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to particular implementations of an intermediary system that is disposed between two messaging networks operating in accordance with incompatible protocols with respect to one another. In the primary example provided in the present application, a first network operates according to the GSM standard and the second network operates according to an ANSI standard. Obviously, without some form of intermediary system disposed between these two networks, users of the first network cannot communicate with users

of the second network. The applied Bennett reference provides a general discussion of the desirability of such intermediary functionality.

However, Applicants note that to anticipate a claim, an applied reference must teach every element of the claim. MPEP §2131. In this case, the applied Bennett reference simply fails to disclose basic elements of the presently claimed invention.

Reference is made, firstly, to Figure 4, which depicts a call flow control according to one implementation of the present invention. As shown, the intermediary system provides acknowledgement messages back to a GSM carrier's SMSC. The first acknowledgement message is the MAP_SEND_ROUTING_INFO_FOR_MT_SMS_ACK (which corresponds, in claim 1, to "sending, from the intermediary in response to the routing information request, an acknowledgement message to the first network"), and the second acknowledgement message is the MAP_FORWARD_SHORT_MESSAGE_ACK (which corresponds, in claim 1, to "generating, in the intermediary, an acknowledgement of receipt of the SMS message, and sending the acknowledgement of receipt to the first network").

A basic advantage of the present invention is that the intermediary system provides GSM-compliant acknowledgement messages back to a GSM network, even though the SMS message that is being sent is destined for a non-GSM network.

Bennett is completely silent regarding acknowledgement messages, as recited in claim 1. Bennett also completely fails to disclose or even to remotely suggest the precise timing for sending such acknowledgement messages, as recited in several of the dependent claims of the present application. For instance, claim 8 (and claim 19) requires that the step of sending the

acknowledgement of receipt (the second acknowledgement message) to the first network is performed only after a response from the second network is received at the intermediary system. This claim corresponds to the call flow control depicted in Figure 5, and is particularly desirable to ensure that the SMS message is properly delivered to the second network before acknowledgement is made back to the GSM network.

In still another implementation, as shown in Figure 6 and recited in claim 9 (and 20), the step of sending the acknowledgement of receipt to the first network is performed only after an acknowledgement of receipt of the SMS message is received from the second network at the intermediary system. This implementation provides still further assurance that the SMS message being sent was actually received by the intended recipient, before acknowledgement is made.

As should be readily appreciated, the presently claimed invention provides for explicit emulation of GSM network call flow control and, in particular, GSM acknowledgement messages, even when the intermediary system is bridging GSM and ANSI networks. Moreover, the claims of the present invention provide for specific timing for sending such acknowledgement messages. None of these features is found in Bennett, or in either of the secondary references cited. Consequently, claims 1-22 should be allowable over the prior art.

Claim 23 has been amended to expressly recite the acknowledgement features of the present invention and new claims 24 and 25 further recite the specific acknowledgement timing features described above and recited in original claims 8, 9, and 19 and 20. Thus, claims 23-25 are believed allowable over the prior art for the same reasons set forth above.

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In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

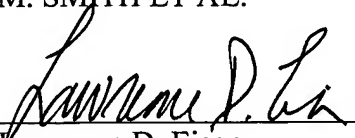
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Attachments: None

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